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THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

Editor: JOHN CARRUTHERS

This Bulletin is published monthly and circulated to around 400 members of the International Bridge Press Association comprising the world's leading journalists, authors and editors of news, books and articles about contract bridge, with an estimated readership of some 200 million people who enjoy the most widely played of all card games

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Editorial

Brian Senior's guest editorial last month brought strong responses from José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation, and Radek Kielbasinski, President of the Polish Bridge Union. Both gentlemen agree with Senior's view that bringing young people into the game is important – they differ on how to go about it, however.

Damiani: "I am pretty sure that the WBF Executive Council is in agreement with Brian Senior's general philosophy, even though we can debate the merits of some actions (such as the Individuals or the camps). I consider it is very hard to imagine a future for bridge as a sport without a strong effort from all NBOs to develop bridge for young people. I am sure you will recognise that I myself have used very much the same wording to stress this to NBOs on many occasions in the past.

The WBF has made every effort to encourage NBOs to teach bridge to young people, to organise junior events, to participate in the World University Championships organised in association with FISU, which has recognized bridge as an official sport, and to develop areas within our websites specially for young people.

In addition, the WBF has created a teaching program, available free of charge and on the website www.wbfteaching.org.

Unfortunately, the response from NBOs has been discouraging, with very few prepared to take on the responsibility of teaching young people and developing this area of the sport. Nevertheless, please rest assured that the WBF will not cease in its efforts to assist NBOs further, with a very detailed plan, and the help of people like Sabine Auken and Sharon Osberg in addition to myself. We will do all that we can to promote the development of youth bridge, to seek to bring young people to the bridge table where they can discover the challenge and satisfaction inherent in the game."

Kielbasinski: "I fully agree that youth bridge is crucial and should be given a very high priority. However, I cannot agree with some aspects of the WBF Youth Committee policy, which dispenses so much of our assets for so little return. In nearly every sport there is a clear distinction between fun and the sport. When you want to attend a ski camp you go to a travel agent and choose what you can afford. You would not dream of applying to the World Skiing Federation for any support. In our game, however, a bridge camp has become a major event. For comparison, the World Junior Pairs Championship comprises four sessions over two days whilst the associated Camp, organised by the European Bridge League, took a full eight days.

In my opinion, the junior Camp was the worst part of EBL policy. There are many reasons for this, including:

- The Camp competed with camps organized by NBOs
- Only the relatively well-to-do could afford it
- It was too much of a holiday and not focused enough on teaching bridge skills
- It took a great deal of EBL resources for a very small return
- The participants were allowed to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes, which is strongly against the policy of Olympic Sport.

The Camp in Hungary in 2003 was the last one officially organised by the EBL. Any further camps will be organised without EBL financial support.

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The ACBL also organizes a Camp. To encourage attendance from the EBL, the EBL was paying 25,000 CHF for plane tickets whilst participants had to pay about US \$400 each for the Camp. As a result, only rich European Juniors benefited from the EBL support; and then only about 20-25 of them. There were no clear criteria as to who was offered support. Being a 'good camper' was offered as a main criterion.

EBL support would have been better placed to support poorer Federations in sending their teams to the European Junior Teams Championship. I can understand that the Camp is fun both for participants and members of the Youth Committee. But why should bridge players at large pay for the pleasures of a small, well-to-do minority?

For the last 20 years, through the Camps, the Youth Committee has tried to sell bridge as fun. The result of this policy has proved to be bad for bridge. In particular, we have failed to encourage, educate, promote and bring forward the next generation of top bridge players. In many NBOs, the members of their Open and Ladies Teams have been the same for years. In others there is no difference in the average age (or the skill level) of the Open and Senior Teams. With some exceptions, older players are still much better than young ones.

The European Bridge League has finally decided to stop sponsoring vacations to the USA. However, to the surprise of many federations the WBF Youth Committee has invented a new event: the World Junior Individual. The first staging of this new event is to be played in New York, during the ACBL Summer Nationals this year. It looks as if the main aim of the Junior Individual is to force the presence of some Europeans at the ACBL Camp.

From a sport point of view the event has no merit. The difference in playing level will be enormous, and young players will be playing different systems. The results will be purely accidental. The event may even be detrimental to bridge since it will show the outside world that bridge is just a game of luck. The budget for the World Junior Individual is US \$40,000!

The event is scheduled for two days in the middle of a week. Any NBO who decides to send its players will be in trouble. In order to obtain cheap fares the European Juniors will have to stay over until the next Monday or... attend the Camp.

In my opinion the bridge community urgently needs serious discussion about the future of junior bridge. If the current policy continues, in some 20-30 years' time, we will have no good bridge players at all, just good campers."

THE 45TH AKAI INDIAN WINTER NATIONALS, AURANGABAD, JANUARY 3-13, 2004

By Avinash Gokhale, Pune
and R. Jayaram, Baroda, India

Nearly one thousand players from all over India converged on the historic city of Aurangabad in West India, in early January, to participate in the AKAI Winter Nationals, the annual ten-day *mela* of the Indian bridge fraternity. The best Indian bridge players were all there. There was live Internet coverage on three days, with commentary by Eric Kokish, Fred Gitelman and others. There was a Daily Bulletin, edited by former IBPA Vice-President Avinash Gokhale and R. Jayaram, which was on the Ecats website every day. Fred Gitelman summed it all up in one sentence after labouring through the night to cover an eventful match, "Indian bridge is great!"

The Winter Nationals is designed for the serious tournament player - it looks a lot like a World Championship. On the day before the Championships begin there is a Captains' Meeting and cocktail party/welcome dinner. Play starts the following morning at 10:00 a.m. with the Ruia Gold Cup Teams. Two-and-a half days of qualifying via 16x10-board Swiss matches qualify 24 teams for the next portion of the event. Those teams play 8x12-board Swiss matches for another day and a half to vie for quarterfinals berths. From then on, one-day knockout matches determine the Ruia Gold Cup Champion.

Teams eliminated from the Ruia Teams can join the main pairs event for the Holkar Trophy and the Board-a-Match Teams in progress. The Holkar Pairs starts after the Ruia Teams Swiss Qualifying, and the Board-a-Match Teams on the day after that. Indeed, the winning pair in the Holkar Trophy Pairs and the winning team in the BAM Teams both entered those events following elimination from the Ruia Teams after their respective events had begun.

A unique feature of the competition is that the Pairs and BAM are held on alternate days only: this time the Pairs was held on January 7, 9, 11 & 13; the BAM Teams on January 8, 10 & 12. Truly, it's a purist's competition.

Let's look at some of the more interesting deals from the tournament. They are from Gokhale, Jayaram and the Daily Bulletins, staffed by the Editors with design and reprographics support from Fitzgerald Fernandes and K. Raghavendra.

One hundred and fifty-seven teams entered the fray for the pinnacle of Indian bridge, the teams-of-four for the Ruia Gold Cup.

Thrust & Counterthrust

Ruia Gold Cup Teams Qualifying.

Dealer East. NS Vul.

♠	7 5 3
♥	K J 9 8
♦	—
♣	A J 9 6 3 2
♠	6
♥	7 4
♦	Q 9 8 6 4 3
♣	K Q 7 4
♠	A K J
♥	A 10 5 3
♦	10 7 5
♣	10 8 5
♠	Q 10 9 8 4 2
♥	Q 6 2
♦	A K J 2
♣	—

West	North	East	South
—	Suni Machhar	I ♣	Jitu Solani
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the king of clubs. Solani figured East for the ace, king, jack of spades – if he had four, there wasn't much chance. Since West had raised the standard one club opening, which could have been three cards, the clubs were certain to be four-three. The East hand was now an open book: three-four-three-three.

Jitu won the ace of clubs, pitching a diamond. Playing a spade would be suicide, because the defence would play three rounds, killing the diamond ruff. With impeccable timing, Jitu played a small heart. When East ducked, he won his queen, ruffed a diamond and played a spade. East won and tried to punch dummy with a diamond, but Jitu won to play a heart to the jack and ace. Later, a heart to the king permitted another spade from dummy to land the contract.

At the other table, against the same contract, the lead was the seven of hearts. Declarer put up dummy's jack. East won his ace and could no longer beat the contract, dummy having two entries to play spades after ruffing one diamond and discarding another on the ace of clubs.

If East ducks the jack of hearts, and ducks again when declarer leads the queen after ruffing a diamond and playing one round of trumps, the hand is beaten.

And finally, if the declarer had played dummy's eight of hearts instead of the jack on the opening lead, the defence has no answer.

A Formidable Clash

When two pre-tournament favourites clash, expectations of a hard-fought battle are natural. On the following deals from the Swiss qualifying, eventual BAM winners Formidables (K. Nadar, S. Gupta, K.R. Venkatraman, S. Choksi, B. Satyanarayana) took on Agsar Paints (Kirubakara Murthy, B. Prabhakar, J.M. Shah, A Padhye, R. Dalal). It was a virtual who's who of today's talent.

Board 5. Dealer North. NS Vul.

♠ K 4	
♥ Q J 9 6	
♦ A Q 6 3 2	
♣ A 8	
♠ 6 3	♠ J 10 9 8 7
♥ A 7 3	♥ 10 8 5 2
♦ K J 7	♦ 9 8 4
♣ K 9 6 3 2	♣ 10
♠ A Q 5 2	
♥ K 4	
♦ 10 5	
♣ Q J 7 5 4	

Both tables reached three no trumps by North, Anil Padhye the declarer for Agsar in the Open Room, and B. Satyanarayana for Formidables in the Closed Room. Both Easts led the jack of spades, won in hand with the king, then the ace and another club to dummy's jack followed, revealing the bad break, as both Easts pitched a revealing spade.

West won the king of clubs and on both tables returned a spade. From here onwards the declarers took different lines. Padhye chose to cash his black suit winners and play the king of hearts. Venkatraman, West, won his ace, cashed the club nine, and returned a heart. Now committed to relying

on the heart ten dropping or something else favourable developing, Padhye played his hearts from the top and exited with the fourth. However, East, Choksi won and cashed his spade winner for down one.

On the other table, Satyanarayana took the diamond finesse after winning the second spade and the favourable break saw him home with ten tricks. 12 IMPs to Formidables.

Board 9. Dealer North. EW Vul.

♠ J 9 4	
♥ 10 9 5	
♦ K 10 8	
♣ A Q J 2	
♠ Q 7 5	♠ K 3 2
♥ A K 8 6	♥ Q 2
♦ A Q 7 4	♦ J 9 6 5 2
♣ 9 6	♣ K 10 7
♠ A 10 8 6	
♥ J 7 4 3	
♦ 3	
♣ 8 5 4 3	

Again, both teams were in the same contract of three no trumps, this time by West, and the play started similarly once again. Both declarers got the lead of the ten of hearts, and both won the queen in dummy to play a diamond to the queen, which held the trick.

The paths diverged here. For Formidables, Venkatraman, relying on his table presence, figured out that Padhye had held up the king of diamonds and found the remarkable play of a spade to the king and South's ace. Rajesh Dalal returned a heart to Venky's king and a small diamond put Anil in with his king. He tried the jack of spades, but Venky ducked and was in control, eventually playing a club towards the king for his ninth trick.

Padhye could have won his diamond king at trick two and switched to the queen of clubs for an easy down one. Alternatively, a spade switch looks attractive, particularly if you see all the cards. Declarer puts up the king of spades on the switch, and must hold up his queen if the defence continues spades and is then in control.

At the other table, after the queen of diamonds held at trick two, Prabhakar continued with the ace and another, South discarding two clubs. In with the king of diamonds, Satyanarayana believed that switching to the queen of clubs would be futile since his partner had only two clubs left, so declarer could duck once and cut the defenders' transportation.

Instead, Satya exited passively with the nine of hearts. Prabhakar won in hand, cashed his diamond winners, South pitching a spade and a club, and played a spade to his queen. His transportation well and truly in a mess, he then played a second spade. Kiran Nadar, South, took her two spade winners and returned a club for Satya to concede a trick to the king and claim the last two club tricks for down one.

True, at the point Satya won the diamond king, clubs could not be established for three winners, but only two were needed. Suppose he shifts to the club queen and declarer ducks. Now a switch to spades ensures five tricks for the

defence before declarer can catch his nine. A tricky hand indeed. All this action meant that Formidables ran out big winners, 35-17, 20 VPs to 10.

A Nail-Biter

One of the four-segment, 48-board quarterfinals saw last year's holders, Indian Railways 'B', pitted against Kiran Nadar's Formidables, India's representative team in the Bermuda Bowl in Paris (where they reached the quarterfinals, losing to Poland) and Monte Carlo. With one set of 12 boards to go, the Railwaymen were leading by 2 IMPs. Only 18 IMPs were exchanged in that last set. Cut to Board 45.

Dealer North. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 10 5 3 ♥ A 10 8 7 6 ♦ A 7 ♣ 9 6 5</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 7 ♥ 4 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ A 8 7 4 3</p> <p>♠ A K 4 ♥ Q J 2 ♦ J 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 6 2 ♥ K 9 5 3 ♦ Q 2 ♣ K Q J 10</p>
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In the Open Room, after two passes, South opened a diamond, one heart by North, raised to two by South, which was doubled by Rana Roy (the Railway West). Manas Mukherjee (the Railway East) bid and easily made three clubs on the heart queen lead. Plus 110 to Railways. The drama was in the Closed Room.

West	North	East	South
Subhash	Sumit	Sunit	Pritish
—	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	2 ♥	3 ♣	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Subhash Gupta, Indian and Canadian international, and Sunit Choksi were playing for Formidables -- this pair had done well in Long Beach, finishing seventh in the American Life Masters Pairs last year. South was the 'guruji' Pritish Kushari, and North was Sunit Mukherjee, all of 29 years old, Pritish's protégé.

The club king was led, and the low trump shift was allowed to run to the seven-spot. The diamond ace and another put East in. A trifle late, East found the spade shift, but declarer Mukherjee was in control. A third diamond ruffed with the ten finished the defence. The youngster romped home, losing two trumps, a diamond and a club. Plus 140 points to Railways, but more importantly, 6 IMPs to them.

The set score was 10-8 in favour of Railways, and they won the match by 4 IMPs. If the contract had gone down one, as it would have against sturdier defence (a spade shift at trick two, from either side), the set score would have read 8-4 in favour of Formidables and they would have won the match by 2 IMPs!

"My partner took the most important card away from my hand at trick two: the trump four spot!" said Subhash to me later. He had not yet realized that it was up to him to protect that four-spot by overtaking the club king with his ace and shifting to the queen of spades. The need to protect partner was paramount. Now when declarer plays ace and another diamond, a further spade play from East puts declarer on life-support systems. He wins and ruffs a diamond with the heart ten as before, East discarding, and ruffs a club back to dummy. However, now when he leads a good diamond, intending to discard a spade, West can ruff with the precious four of hearts to pull the plug on those life-support systems.

Indian Railways 'B' then stormed through the semi-finals and, in an all-Railway final, beat Indian Railways 'A' convincingly to lift the Ruia Gold Cup. The latter, after trailing Trambak Rubber by 19 IMPs at the end of the third set of their semi-finals, put their best foot forward to not only wipe off the deficit, but also to ultimately prevail by 4 IMPs to reach the finals. But they lost steam thereafter, particularly in the last set of the finals. Incidentally, the non-playing captain of both Railway teams was Ranjit Bose, and he could be seen smiling all day long even as the finals was going on! "I will go to the podium, escorting both teams tonight, to receive the prizes," he proudly announced.

A Popular Victory

The Pairs final for the Holkar Trophy, played on January 13, witnessed some dramatic action, reminding one of a thrilling horse race. Indeed, the Daily Bulletin came out with a late evening edition with four graphics showing the first six positions at the end of the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th (Holkar Trophy, winning post) rounds, with pair numbers on the saddles of horses with a legend at the end. Sunit Choksi and K.R. Venkatraman, both World Masters, took what many thought was an impregnable lead - at the half-way stage they were two boards ahead of their nearest rival and a little later, they were three and a half boards ahead.

Unlike in the European Open at Menton last year - where in the Pairs finals, they led a world-class field at the half-way stage, were third at the three-quarters stage, only to ultimately fade out and finish a tame tenth - Rajesh Dalal and Anil Padhye seemed to have run a waiting race this time around. They quickened their pace after the half-way stage, were second at the bend, to ultimately win with more than a board to spare from the 'amazing veteran,' 74-year old Ratanlal Kejrival and his brother Prakash. The early leaders did not finish in the first six!

2nd Final Session. Board 12. Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ K 8 6 4 3 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ J 10 5</p> <p>♠ A 10 9 7 ♥ 10 4 ♦ Q 8 6 4 2 ♣ A 3</p>	<p>♠ Q ♥ A K Q 9 6 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ Q 7 4 2</p> <p>♠ J 5 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ K J 5 3</p>
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♣ K 9 8 6

West	North	East	South
Padhye		Dalal	
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Double
Pass	2 ♠	3 ♠	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Here is a deal played by Rajesh Dalal which contributed 12.5 out of a possible 14 to their final tally of 490 points (fractionally over 60%) in the 58-board, 30-pair final.

Anil Padhye opened an 11-13 no trump with his flawed 10-count, two diamonds was a transfer and four hearts was the final contract, although quite a few pairs bid three no trumps by West, made four or five depending on the lead.

Dalal won the jack of spades lead on the table and immediately played the ten of spades, covered and ruffed. Trumps were drawn, then the ace and ten of diamonds were played. South won the king, thus endplaying himself, although his play on the diamond does not matter. Dalal made 12 tricks.

The Winners

Ruia Gold Cup (Teams-of-Four): INDIAN RAILWAYS 'B' - Manas Mukherjee, Pritish Kushari, Rana Roy, Amar Nath Banerjee, Sumit Mukherjee, and Hasibul Hassan. Back-to-back titles for the first five of these Railwaymen. Fourth Ruia title for Pritish Kushari and Rana Roy.

Board-a-Match Trophy: FORMIDABLES - Kiran Nadar, Subhash Gupta, K.R. Venkatraman, Sunit Choksi, B. Satyanarayana and S.Thakral. Back-to-back titles for the first five.

Holkar Trophy (Open Pairs): Rajesh Dalal and Anil Padhye. Second Holkar for Anil, first for Rajesh.

CHEERS ALEC ... UNRUFFLED AS EVER

By Alan Simmonds, Cape Town

In post-apartheid South Africa, cross-sections of the population are regularly examined and tested by worthy unknowns who have little idea why they are pursuing seemingly irrelevant statistics. But a great anomalous State database, surely by now near to its bursting point, avariciously demands a never-ending topping up.

In fact "cross" anything seems to imbue the corridors of power with satisfaction – a job well done, a telling blow for freedom and transparency.

Alas, the only figures and facts we are all certain of are more and more instances of theft, corruption and mismanagement – regularly aired by the press.

With bridge in this vast country now totally marginalised – sponsorless and reduced from almost 7000 registered players in the Seventies to a mere 2500 – only those who can afford it represent the country at zonal and world events; totally unsatisfactory, and the reason why our men's and women's teams fare so badly.

But bridge is still enjoyed at regular duplicates and national events. Efforts are being made to educate the young and attract the brainy. But attempts to make bridge a curricular subject have been rebuffed by education anachronisms er-

roneously continuing to view the now Olympic mind sport as a game of chance and no different than other gambling games of chance.

Hey ho!

The late Alec Traub, international mathematician, bridge writer, teacher and player extraordinaire loved to crossruff. I spent many an instructive hour at his home during his fading years. Alec loved to wax lyrical. And even no shrinking violet myself, I nevertheless, sat in awe and – listened!

"If only learners were not too frightened to cash winners during the crossruff procedure, life would be so much easier for them and for their teachers," he would muse.

True enough.

Here are three of his favourite deals – preserved for their simplicity and perfection, and embracing the four pillars of cross-ruffing – decide where to begin and end, cash side suit winners where possible, sometimes ruff high or low, and avoid finesses unless essential.

But, remember the bidding.

Even the seemingly easiest of contracts can fail if a dozy declarer plays without thought. I constantly exhort my students to, "remember the bidding." Here, an experienced player carelessly went down crossruffing in six spades.

Pairs. Dealer South, NS Vul.

	♠ 10 9 8 6		
	♥ A K 3		
	♦ 8		
	♣ A 8 6 4 2		
♠ 2		♠ 7 5 4 3	
♥ Q 10 9 7 6		♥ J 4	
♦ 6		♦ K Q J 10 9 2	
♣ K Q 10 9 7 3		♣ 5	
	♠ A K Q J		
	♥ 8 5 2		
	♦ A 7 5 4 3		
	♣ J		

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
3 ♣	Double ¹	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Negative

Lead: Club king

Without a trump lead, twelve tricks are there (four plain suit tricks and eight ruffs). Our craven declarer failed. Winning the club, he carelessly ruffed a club to hand – ouch! Away went the heart from East and an excuse was forthcoming. The bidding, the dummy et al surely warned of the six-one break – wakey wakey.

In a variation, a side suit must sometimes be established early IF POSSIBLE, and a bad break considered. Alec emphasized that TIMING was essential – getting the options in order.

Our declarer on this deal failed to see the line and perished.

Teams. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

♠ K 10 9 8	
♥ 3	
♦ A 10 9 5 4	
♣ 6 3 2	
♠ 6	♠ 5 4 3
♥ K Q J 10 6 4	♥ 8 7
♦ J 7 3 2	♦ K Q 8
♣ A 4	♣ 10 9 8 7 5
♠ A Q J 7 2	
♥ A 9 5 2	
♦ 6	
♣ K Q J	

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	4 ♥ ¹	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Splinter

Lead: Heart king

A thinking player, able to count to twelve, soon sees a crossruff is the gateway to paradise. But clubs should be played BEFORE declarer shortens his own hand in trumps. Also, if declarer tries to cash the two club winners before playing a trump, West gets a ruff and again it's excuse time.

The correct, and winning, plan is to ruff the hearts in dummy. Declarer wins the heart ace, ruffs a heart and leads a club. It matters not if West wins the ace: if he does, clubs are established; if he ducks, the club trick serves as an extra entry to ruff hearts.

Say West wins and leads a trump. Declarer now sees trumps are no worse than three-one and can use diamond ruffs to enter hand, not risking even a second club play. If West ducks, declarer ruffs another heart and himself plays a trump to hand, again discovering that a diamond ruff is safe.

The only difficult situation arises on an unlikely trump lead, removing an entry to declarer's hand. In that case, he would have to risk a second round of clubs whether or not West ducked the ace the first time. And, finally, if spades were four-zero, declarer would have to risk a third round of clubs, needing two entries in the suit.

Finally, be warned NOT to take a side winner when the bidding indicates it would be *felo de se* to so proceed. Alec related this little gem with a grin and a chuckle.

Pairs: Dealer West; Love all

♠ K 10 2	
♥ A K 5 4	
♦ J 9 7 4 3	
♣ A	
♠ A J 6	♠ 7
♥ Q	♥ J 10 9 8 2
♦ A 10 8 6	♦ K Q 5 2
♣ K Q 5 4 2	♣ J 8 6
♠ Q 9 8 5 4 3	
♥ 7 6 3	
♦ —	
♣ 10 9 7 3	

West	North	East	South
1 ♣	Double	Pass	1 ♠
Double	Pass!	2 ♥	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠!!	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Lead: Heart queen

No cowards in North's family, but South had a shot. However, was West's lead a singleton? Our South decided on the bidding (the take-out re-opening by West) is couldn't be, won and tried to cash the heart king – oops – back came two rounds of trumps - curtains.

Unlucky, well yes... and no!

A crossruff was all that was needed by our would-be hero, with an eventual lead TOWARD the heart ace.

Cash the club ace, then ruff diamonds and clubs until the following four-card ending was reached:

♠ —		♠ 7
♥ A 5 4		♥ J 10 9
♦ J		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
♠ A J 6		♠ Q 9
♥ —		♥ 7 6
♦ —		♦ —
♣ K		♣ —

A heart leads ensures ten tricks and ... happiness, at last.

By the way Alec, thanks for the memories, but take care, if it means what I think it does, an angel told me they're "playing hell tonight!"

THE SCRIBBLERS

Barry Rigel of New York City and Tim Bourke of Canberra must be the two most prolific writers on bridge in English today. They both write columns, books, and articles and are a seemingly inexhaustible source of material for others. Tim followed in Barry's footsteps as the IBPA Column Service provider.

That both can also 'play a bit' is true as well. In one of those true-life coincidences, we recently received articles from other writers describing hands played by each of our heroes. Both can be considered early candidates for the "Digital Fountain Best Played Hand" of the year award.

HATS

By Alan Truscott, Bronx, NY

Those who make bridge the focus of their lives usually concentrate on one aspect of the game. They are tournament players, rubber-bridge players, teachers, writers, directors or administrators. A few wear many hats, and the largest collection of headgear seems to be owned by Barry Rigel of Manhattan. He writes books, magazine arti-

cles, and, under another name, a newspaper column; he selects the deals that are candidates for the year's best; he heads the Appeals Committee at North American Championships; he is a regular Vugraph commentator at world championships; he edits the daily bulletins at junior camps; he competes successfully in tournaments at every level, sometimes with his world champion wife, Sue Picus; and when he has nothing else to do, he plays money bridge at the Regency Club in Manhattan.

Dealer East. EWVul.

<p>♠ J 3 ♥ 10 5 2 ♦ A K Q 2 ♣ Q 8 7 6</p> <p>♠ A K 10 8 6 4 ♥ — ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ J 10 5 4</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 7 2 ♥ K J 8 6 3 ♦ J 8 ♣ A 9</p>
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	♠ 5 ♥ A Q 9 7 4 ♦ 10 9 7 4 ♣ K 3 2		
West	North	East	South
—	—	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the spade ace.

Wearing the last of these hats, he sat South on this deal and made an impertinent bid. When his opponents were about to come to rest in three spades, he ventured four hearts. He knew that his opponents had limited values, since East had not opened the bidding and West had a weak two-bid, so North was marked with strength. Rigal did not know that his opponents could make four spades: If trumps are led, the declarer can develop a second club trick with his jack-ten combination. He did not know that he was running into a foul heart break. If he had known either of those things he would have held his peace. As it was, he was in four hearts, and East was cautious in refraining from doubling.

Rigal ruffed the second spade lead, crossed to the diamond queen, and called for the heart ten. This was covered by the jack and queen, revealing the bad split. Superficially, the situation was hopeless, but with his good heart spots South saw that he had a fair chance. He knew the major-suit distribution, and he hoped that East held minor-suit doubletons including the club ace.

He therefore crossed to the diamond king and led the club six. East could have defended successfully by snatching his ace and leading a third round of spades. But that was very difficult to see, and he made the normal play of the club nine. South won with the king, and ducked a club. This forced East to win in this tricky position: (See top of next column.)

If East had exited a trump, South would have won cheaply and led a diamond to the ace effectively. So East tried a spade. The declarer threw his club deuce, ruffed in the dummy, and led the club queen. East ruffed and was overruffed. A diamond to the dummy was ruffed by East, who was helpless. He led his last spade and dummy ruffed. That left East's

king-eight of hearts trapped under South's ace-nine in a coup position.

<p>♠ — ♥ 5 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ Q 8</p> <p>♠ 10 8 6 ♥ — ♦ 6 ♣ J 10</p>	<p>♠ Q 7 ♥ K 8 6 3 ♦ — ♣ —</p> <p>♠ — ♥ A 9 7 ♦ 10 9 ♣ 2</p>
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Rigal had a deal worth writing about, so he collected his money and departed in search of one his other hats.

PYRRHIC WIZARDRY

By Richard Oshlag, Germantown, TN

My teammate Tim Bourke played this hand marvelously in the fourth quarter of our semifinal match in the Australian National Open Teams to keep us close to our Indonesian opponents, captained by Ferdy WALUYAN.

Dealer West. NS Vul.

<p>♠ K 10 8 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ J ♣ A Q 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 ♥ A J 10 9 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ K 7 6 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 6 2 ♥ Q ♦ K Q 10 9 6 ♣ J 9 8 4</p> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ K 8 7 3 2 ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ 10 3</p>
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	♠ 1 ♥ 3 ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ 10 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Waluyan led the five of clubs and, despite four natural trump losers, Tim managed to bring the game home! He finessed the club queen successfully, played to the diamond ace and ruffed a diamond. After a spade to the ace and another diamond ruff he cashed the spade king. Next came the club ace and a club ruff in hand with the heart three.

Now Tim led his last diamond hoping to ruff it in dummy. Instead, Waluyan ruffed in with the heart nine and dummy discarded a spade to leave: (See top of next page.)

Hoping for the best, Waluyan led the king of clubs. If Tim happened to win this trick in hand, he would have to lead away from the heart king, allowing East to win the queen and then Waluyan would take the last two tricks with ace, jack of trumps.

♠ 10 8 5
 ♥ 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ —
 ♠ —
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ —
 ♣ K
 ♠ Q
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K
 ♣ J
 ♠ —
 ♥ K 8 7 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

However, Tim had a surprising counter! He ruffed in dummy with the heart six and underuffed in hand with the three, bringing his trick count to nine. A spade was now led from dummy, perforce, and after East followed suit with the queen Tim ruffed low. Waluyan, with only the ace, jack, ten of trumps remaining, had to overruff with the ten and was now forced him to lead from ace, jack of hearts around to Tim's king, eight, conceding the tenth trick.

"Well played," said the ever-gracious Ferdie to his declarer screen-mate, even though it was a 12 IMP swing to the BOURKE team. Alas, it was not enough to see us over the line as we fell 8 IMPs short of victory.

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

By Tim Bourke, Canberra

257. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 9 5 2
 ♥ K Q J 8
 ♦ 9 7 6 3
 ♣ 5 4
 ♠ Q 10 7 6 3
 ♥ 7
 ♦ 10 8 5 4 2
 ♣ K Q J
 ♠ J
 ♥ A 6 5 4 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 6 3 2
 ♠ A K 8 4
 ♥ 10 9 3
 ♦ A K Q J
 ♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South ducked the king of clubs lead, East playing the ten of clubs. West continued with the queen of clubs to declarer's now bare the ace of clubs. South, with only seven top tricks, attacked hearts by leading the ten. East withheld his ace, leaving declarer with no option but to play a second heart. West smartly discarded the jack of clubs, allowing East to take the ace of hearts and cash four club tricks to defeat the contract by two tricks.

There was a simple precaution against this. As declarer needs clubs to be blocked, he should win the first club and play on hearts. The difference is that West cannot unblock the clubs

in time - if the second heart holds, South cashes his six remaining winners.

258. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ Q 8 7 6 5 2
 ♥ Q 8 5
 ♦ 10 6 3
 ♣ 8
 ♠ —
 ♥ J 9 6 4
 ♦ K Q J 7 5
 ♣ J 10 5 3
 ♠ J 10 9 4
 ♥ K 10 7 2
 ♦ 9 8 4
 ♣ 4 2
 ♠ A K 3
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ A K Q 9 7 6

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the king of diamonds, taken by declarer in hand with the ace. The ace of trumps revealed the bad news that they were four-zero and that there was a certain trump loser. As there would be no problem if clubs were three-three, declarer played his three top clubs, discarding two diamonds from dummy.

Alas East ruffed the third club but has no winning exit. A diamond lead would be ruffed low in dummy, trumps drawn with the queen and king and a club ruffed would establish two winning clubs to take care of dummy's heart losers. As a similar result would occur on a trump return, East exited with the two of hearts. Declarer had no choice but to duck to dummy's queen, then play as if a diamond had been returned instead. (You should note that on an unlikely the king of hearts shift, South has to ruff a heart in hand for the twelfth trick.)

On this layout, a heart lead defeats six spades.

259. Dealer South. EW Vul.

♠ A 2
 ♥ A Q 10
 ♦ A K Q 4
 ♣ Q 7 6 3
 ♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ J 9 7 6
 ♣ 5
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K J 9 8 6
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ A K 9 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♥ ¹
3 ♠	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1. Five-card suit

(Continued on page 11)

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PRESS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

by Christer Andersson, Uppsala, Sweden, Treasurer IBPA

All figures are in \$ US

	<u>Real 1999</u>	<u>Real 2000</u>	<u>Real 2001</u>	<u>Budget 2002</u> Revised	<u>Real 2002</u>
BUDGETS - RECEIPTS					
Dues - total	\$32.665	\$25.634	\$24.926	\$23.800	\$24.229
- year of account	20.229	20.394	20.057		21.087
- next year	4.767	3.918	3.716		2.663
- the year thereafter	118	161	288		63
- sponsoring	520	453	349		417
Awards money	1.003	1.930	4.431	4.000	3.000
Interest	1.118	896	792	750	622
Advertisements	649	4.282	391	500	802
WBF	0	2.054	974	1.000	1.075
EBL	80	0	0	0	0
Clippings service	0	895	415	1.000	0
IBPA Championships	197	148	125	250	63
Float/Loan	0	0	76	0	0
Donation	0	47	0	0	0
Tax repayment	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	\$ 28.681	\$ 35.178	\$ 31.614	\$ 31.300	\$ 29.879
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
BUDGETS - DISBURSEMENTS					
Bulletin print	\$12.628	\$12.980	\$14.000	\$10.000	\$9.868
Bulletin postage	7.192	7.354	9.000	7.800	7.335
Bulletin extras	2.249	1.967	2.500	1.700	269
Bulletin Editor fee	2.561	2.304	3.200	2.870	4.831
-"- expenses	1.026	2.057	700	1.000	401
-"- Secretary/Compuserve	1.379	1.253	1.300	1.200	1.010
-"- travel	0	0	1.500	1.000	0
Membership Secretary fee	1.149	1.044	1.150	0	0
-"- expenses	700	972	700	1.500	607
President expenses	507	988	1.000	1.000	1.000
-"- travel	1.234	804	1.500	1.000	1.000
Treasurer expenses	200	350	297	350	200
-"- Travel	0	0	0	0	0
Secretary expenses	181	1.471	200	150	116
-"- travel	246	0	1.500	1.000	1.055
Inland Revenue Scotland	171	124	300	150	52
IBPA awards	0	1.960	1.600	1.250	950
Expenses Awards Chairman	0	50	50	50	0
Clippings awards	0	500	0	500	0
Bulletin hands	0	500	500	240	0
IBPA web site	217	35	0	50	0
IBPA Championship	120	89	150	150	47
Bank costs	268	59	250	150	7
- VISA rental/ CC charge	850	859	900	0	401
Contingencies	0	298	250	250	0
Liability from 2000/2001	0	0	0	181	85
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Total	\$ 33.442	\$ 32.883	\$ 37.691	\$ 34.210	\$ 30.133
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Exchange rates used (end of December 2002): US\$ 1 = 8.75 SKr; US\$ 1 = 0.62366 GB£; US\$ 1 = 0.954 EUR

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SHARIF AND SCHUMANN

By Michel Abécassis, Paris

I appreciated David Rex-Taylor's letter in the January 2004 IBPA Bulletin describing, with style and wit, his encounter with Omar Sharif in the 1960s. I've been lucky enough to know Omar for more than 30 years. I have observed him on many occasions, partnering him at the bridge table and sharing various moments in 'real' life as well. Oh, he's not the perfect man. His changing and sometimes violent moods are very well known all over the world. And he must have been having one of these days when he met Mr. Rex-Taylor, no doubt about it. BUT, he is also - and this seems much more important to me - one of the cleverest, most charming, generous, sensitive persons I have ever met. And what a keen sense of analysis when he talks about bridge!

Anyway, I'm sure Omar himself would take the story told by David Rex-Taylor very gracefully. And when reminiscing about it, he will make us laugh even more as he is an extraordinarily witty storyteller himself.

This reminds me of an anecdote from the Sixties when Omar played a tournament with the late Maurice Schumann. A spokesman for Général de Gaulle during World War II and, at the time, the Foreign Affairs Minister in the French government, Schumann was a most respected politician. He was, in a word, *somebody*.

Schumann was also a passionate, though poor bridge player. And he knew it. So very humbly, he came and begged to know whether the Star "would condescend to play a tourney," with him. Omar actually felt honoured and gently accepted.

Before the game started, the Minister could not stop apologizing for the poor quality of his game and praised Omar's indulgence. "Don't worry, *Monsieur le*

Ministre, we all make mistakes. Furthermore, it's such an honour for me to be your partner tonight that I would not even think about the slightest reproach against you," answered Sharif very sincerely.

After play began, Schumann was doing his best to display every possible error a bridge player can make. Omar, though he could feel his anger swelling, was trying on his part to be as sweet and reassuring as possible.

Then it came. As they were defending six hearts, Maurice Schumann thought it was urgent to ruff his partner's good ace of spades. After all, a trick is a trick. But the problem was that Schumann had ruffed with his king of trumps, which was still guarded behind dummy's ace and would have been the setting trick!

Well, even if it was not the Minister's most spectacular blunder that evening, it was still a bit too much. Sharif felt like he had just been stabbed in his chest. Turning white as a ghost, he stood up, thereby knocking over his chair, and banged his fist so vehemently on the table that the cards landed in the kibitzers' laps. The words Omar uttered then cannot be reported here.

Surprisingly enough, this all came to a happy ending. Though Omar left the table without completing the tournament, he soon realised how rude he had been, and apologized the next morning, almost on his knees. Answered the politician, with the kindest of smiles: "No need to apologize, Omar, I slaughtered the whole game! If I were you, I would have reacted the same way...and probably a little earlier, as well." Schumann was a diplomat, and he was also a gentleman.

That's how it happened and I like this anecdote. Isn't it evidence that Omar is a true human being - never acting, when not in a movie?

SUBTLE SUBTERFUGE

By Maureen Dennison, Isleworth, UK

It is not often that one puts forward the bidding on a freak hand as worthy of consideration as to best bidding - and that by one hand only of the partnership.

♠ —	
♥ A K Q 10 8 7 6 3	
♦ A K J 10 2	
♣ —	
♠ K Q J 10 9 7 4	♠ A 3 2
♥ 9 4	♥ J
♦ Q	♦ 9 8 7 6
♣ A Q 4	♣ K J 10 8 7
♠ 8 6 5	
♥ 5 2	
♦ 5 4 3	
♣ 9 6 5 3 2	

West	North	East	South
—	Pass(!)	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	4 NT	Double	5 ♣
Double	5 ♥	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	6 ♥	Pass	Pass
6 ♠	7 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

The deal comes from a major Swedish competition and sitting North was Peder Linder. This was the layout with East-West vulnerable and dealer North.

How else do you persuade the opponents that you are sacrificing?

I heard a sorry story that at one table North opened two hearts FORCING and South passed! West bid a number of spades - his first mistake - and, when North jumped to 6♥, passed round, he doubled! He is still smarting.

(IBPA Column Service - Continued from page 8.)

West led the king of spades against this optimistic venture, won by dummy's ace. After declarer cashed the ace and queen of trumps, the one-four break forced him to consider his position.

It seemed that West had seven spades, particularly as East had followed to the first trick with the eight of spades. So as West had only five unknown cards and there were seven diamonds, it was safe to cash the ace and king of diamonds. When all followed, the only danger was that West had a five-card diamond suit. Then the contract could be made at single dummy by cashing the queen of clubs next.

However, the chance of West having five diamonds was tiny compared to the possibility of East having four clubs, so cashing the queen of diamonds next was the most likely winning option. When all followed, declarer ruffed the four of diamonds with the jack of hearts to complete the count of the West hand as seven-one-four-one.

Now declarer led the two of clubs to dummy's queen and called for the six of clubs. If East split, he would win with the king of clubs, cross to dummy's ten of hearts and finesse East's remaining club honour. In actual play, East followed with the eight of clubs and declarer played the nine. Making seven!

260. Dealer South. Both Vul.

<p>♠ J 4 2 ♥ 10 4 ♦ K J 6 5 ♣ A K 9 8</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ Q 8 6 5 3 ♦ 10 9 8 7 3 2 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ K Q 8 ♥ A K J 7 ♦ A Q ♣ Q 10 7 3</p>	<p>♠ A 10 9 6 5 3 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 4 ♣ J 5 4 2</p>
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West	North	East	South
—	—	—	2 NT
Pass	4 NT	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the ten of diamonds, taken in hand with the queen. Declarer had eleven top tricks and developing the twelfth trick from clubs would only be a problem if one defender had four clubs to the jack.

The ace of diamonds revealed the six-one break, suggesting that if anyone was short in clubs it would be West. Some might play on clubs now but declarer saw that it couldn't cost to play on spades first. East ducked the king of spades but took the queen of spades with the ace and returned a spade to dummy's jack.

As there were now six unknown cards in each defender's hand, it seemed to be a guess as to which defender to assume had four clubs to the jack. However, if East had a singleton club, he would have started with six-five-one-one shape, making the heart finesse a five in seven chance to win. If it were West, then West would have one-five-six-one shape, making

the heart finesse only a two in seven chance to win. So, cashing the ace-king of clubs is the correct play, because if clubs are wrong the heart finesse is a heavy favourite to win.

Here West showed out, so declarer cashed the king-jack of diamonds, throwing the jack and seven of hearts from hand, then finessed East's the jack of clubs and claimed twelve tricks.

APROPOS

By Ib Lundby, Fredensborg, Denmark

I must complain the cards are ill-shuffled, till I have a good hand. (Jonathan Swift)

West had no reason to complain about this hand from the Danish Teams Championship. He had lots of high cards in his hand, 21 HCP, while South had only 6 HCP. But high cards aren't everything ...

Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ J ♥ A 3 2 ♦ Q 10 6 2 ♣ K J 10 4 2</p> <p>♠ K ♥ K J 5 ♦ A K J 7 ♣ A Q 9 7 3</p> <p>♠ A 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♥ Q 10 9 8 7 ♦ 5 ♣ —</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 9 5 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 9 8 4 3 ♣ 8 6 5</p>
---	---

West	North	East	South
Anders Hagen	Steen Schou	Henrik Iversen	Hans Christian Nielsen
1 ♣	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Double	Pass	1 NT	3 ♥!
Double	Pass	Pass	Pass

Lead: Diamond ace

It is difficult to blame West for not finding the trump lead, but maybe he should have done so at trick two – otherwise the contract is unbeatable! But West shifted to the club ace, ruffed by South, who cashed the spade ace and continued with a low spade.

West ruffed with the five of hearts while a club disappeared from dummy. In desperation, West now tried to cash the diamond king, but South trumped and played another spade. West's heart jack was taken with the ace, and a trump went to the king. Still in trouble, West tried a low club, but declarer finessed the ten, cashed the two minor-suit cards in dummy, and made ten tricks. Plus 930 to North-South.

At the other table Knud-Aage Boesgaard, brother-in-law to Nielsen and President of the Danish Bridge Federation, opened the West hand with a strong two no trumps, which became the final contract. North didn't know better than to lead the club jack, which declarer took with the queen.

The spade king went to South's ace, and North won the heart shift with the ace over West's jack. The heart continuation went to the king, and when West cashed the two high diamonds he knew what was going on. South was end-played

in hearts and had to give dummy three spade tricks. The ace of clubs became declarer's eighth trick.

Plus 120 to East-West and 14 IMPs to Steen Schou's team.

Men who pass most comfortably through the world are those who possess good digestions and hard hearts.
(Harriet Martineau)

The Blakset brothers, Lars and Knut, have played together before in national as well as international events. Maybe they now will renew their partnership, as Lars Blakset and Jens Auken have broken up theirs after only one year. Knut Blakset plays on a team in our second division, and I have heard that brother Lars will join the team.

Here is a defensive brilliancy from Knut's hand in this year's tournament:

Dealer West. Both Vul.

<p>♠ 9 7 5 2 ♥ A J 10 6 4 ♦ J 5 ♣ 7 2</p>	<p>♠ Q 10 6 4 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A 8 3 ♣ A 10 9 3</p>
<p>♠ — ♥ Q 9 8 2 ♦ Q 10 7 6 ♣ K J 8 5 4</p>	<p>♠ A K J 8 3 ♥ K 3 ♦ K 9 4 2 ♣ Q 6</p>

West	North	East	South
Knut Blakset	Arne Mohr	Thomas Nilsson	Mads Krøjgaard
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led a club to the ace, and East cleverly returned the diamond three. South played low, so West won with the queen, cashed the club king, and played a diamond to East's ace. Now, the eight of diamonds went to the nine and ten, and was ruffed in dummy.

South now had to play the trump suit without loss, and that is easier when you see all the cards. But South didn't, as he now played a spade to the ace. Oops!

South needed two entries to dummy to catch East's trumps, so he cleverly led a low heart, intending to finesse with the heart jack. Not possible! Knut inserted the heart queen, and the contract went one off. Lars and Knut run a bridge school. They may not yet have reached the chapter of second hand low!

The maxim for any love affair is: "Play and pray!"
(Charles Williams)

Klaus Adamsen and Dennis Koch-Palmund have played together for a couple of years after Dennis' long international career (partnering Jens Auken). I asked Klaus what he had learned during this new partnership with a more experienced partner.

"Dennis has taught me lots of things, but the most important is that, 'you have to love the cards!'" was his answer.

Klaus and Dennis are on the team which recently won our first division, and thus qualified to the finals of the Danish Teams Championship in the end of February (four teams). This hand shows that Klaus has learned to love the cards:

Dealer South EW Vul.

<p>♠ J ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ 9 2 ♣ J 9 6 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 10 5 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ A 10 5 4 ♣ K 10</p>
<p>♠ 8 7 6 2 ♥ A 10 6 ♦ K 3 ♣ A 8 7 5</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 4 3 ♥ Q 2 ♦ Q J 8 7 6 ♣ Q 3</p>

West	North	East	South
	Dennis Koch-Palmund		Klaus Adamsen
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

South's 11-14 no trump opening resulted in a contract that looked like it had four losers, but try the 'love' script.

West's lead of the spade jack indicated that trumps were four-one, and declarer therefore won with the ace, played a diamond to the king, another diamond back to the ace, then trumped a diamond. Dummy was entered on the with the king of clubs and the last diamond ruffed in hand. After the ace of clubs and the ace of hearts, declarer needed two more tricks, and the situation was:

<p>♠ — ♥ K J 8 7 4 ♦ — ♣ J 9 6 4</p>	<p>♠ K 10 5 ♥ 9 5 ♦ — ♣ —</p>
<p>♠ 8 ♥ 10 6 ♦ — ♣ 8 7</p>	<p>♠ Q 9 4 ♥ Q ♦ Q ♣ —</p>

South got off play with a heart, and West did well by playing the king (crocodile coup), swallowing the queen, and cashing the jack. However, the dummy trumped the next trick. East could overruff but finally had to play a spade into dummy's king, ten.

CAJUN QUIZ

By Barry Rigal, New York City

Here are two problems from the recent North American Bridge Championships in New Orleans, one defensive and one declarer play.

1. Dealer South. Both Vul.

♠ 6 5
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ K 10 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 4 3

♠ A Q J 7 4
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ K 8 6 2

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♦
3 ♥ ¹	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Game try

You are West and decide upon a passive trump lead. Partner wins the ace as declarer follows with the six. Partner shifts to the spade nine for the ten and your jack. What now?

2. Dealer South EW Vul.

♠ Q J 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K J 9 4
 ♣ K J 6 3 2

♠ A K 6 3
 ♥ A 4 3
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ Q 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 NT
Pass	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 NT ²
Pass	5 ♣ ³	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- 3-1-5-4 or 3-1-4-5 game force
- Roman Key Card Blackwood
- 1 or 4 key cards

West leads the heart king. When you lead a trump to the king West shows out, discarding a heart, and East ducks. You try another club to the nine. What now? Assume if you play a third club, East will win and play a fourth.

Solutions: 1.

♠ 6 5
 ♥ 10 4
 ♦ K 10 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 4 3

♠ A Q J 7 4
 ♥ K 8 2
 ♦ J
 ♣ K 8 6 2

♠ 9 3 2
 ♥ J 9 6 5
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ J 9 7 5

♠ K 10 8
 ♥ A Q 7 3
 ♦ Q 9 8 7 6
 ♣ A

If you play either major you risk letting the contract through if declarer has either king, ten third of spades or ace, queen fourth of hearts. You need two more tricks to defeat the

contract, and only a club switch works. You will always collect your major suit tricks even if you give up a club trick.

2.

♠ Q J 2
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K J 9 4
 ♣ K J 6 3 2

♠ 10 8 7
 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 2
 ♦ 10 7 6 5
 ♣ —

♠ 9 5 4
 ♥ J 9 7
 ♦ Q 8 3
 ♣ A 10 8 4

♠ A K 6 3
 ♥ A 4 3
 ♦ A 2
 ♣ Q 9 7 5

Three lines of play merit our attention.

Line 1: Win the heart and lead a club to the king, which holds, then play a club to the nine. Ace, king and a third diamond, ruffed, come next. Play the queen of clubs and hope East does not have the diamond queen if it has not fallen.

Line 2: Continue drawing trumps and take a diamond finesse. This depends on West's holding the diamond queen. This becomes more likely when West has no clubs.

Line 3: Ruff two hearts in dummy. This line depends on East having no more than three hearts. Although it works on the given deal, it is a lower-percentage play than either of the other two lines. It improves slightly when East shows up with all four trumps. (Or if West opened or overcalled in hearts.)

Line 1 is superior. It requires the diamond queen to drop in three or fewer rounds, or, if it does not, East to have three diamonds or fewer: a good shot when clubs are four-zero.

Another contract of interest on this deal is five spades. Assuming the same king of hearts lead, win the ace and lead a club. The best defence to five spades is to duck the club ace. However, declarer can still succeed no matter who has the diamond queen. Say a club to the nine is ruffed and a heart comes back. Declarer ruffs, comes to the diamond ace, ruffs another heart, cashes the high trump in dummy, then plays off the diamond king and ruffs a diamond to hand. When he draws trumps and plays a club at trick twelve, East has only clubs left.

Results of 2003 Channel Trophy		
Utrecht, December 19-21, 2003		
Under 25		
1.	Belgium	117
2.	England	86
3.	Netherlands	77
4.	France	68
Under 20		
1.	Netherlands	128
2.	France	86
3.	Belgium	78
4.	England	63

RESULTS - BRIDGE PROFESSIONAL TOUR

Palm Springs Open - Dec. 20, 2003

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------|
| 1. | Chris Compton | \$5,000 |
| 2. | William Wellman | \$2,000 |
| 3.= | Adam Wildavsky | \$800 |
| 3.= | Anne Terry | \$750 |

2003 Bonus Pool Standings

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|
| 1. | Chris Compton | \$16,400 |
| 2. | Charles Miner | \$11,000 |
| 3. | Adam Wildavsky | \$9,000 |

Reno Open (2004 Tour) - Dec. 28, 2003

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------|
| 1. | Jon Wittes | \$1,040 |
| 2.= | McKenzie Myers | \$390 |
| 2.= | Frank Trieber III | \$390 |

New York Open (2004 Tour) - Dec. 30, 2003

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------|
| 1. | Mike Albert | \$1,040 |
| 2. | Jim Linhart | \$585 |
| 3. | Ernest Campbell | \$260 |

NEWS & VIEWS

World Championships

Erratum: The night club bombing in Bali occurred *after* the cancellation of the World Championships there and their move to Paris, not before, as reported in Bulletin 468. Unfortunately, the error was discovered after we'd gone to print. Nevertheless, it was corrected on the web version.

WBF President José Damiani assures us that the 2004 Olympiad in Istanbul is proceeding as planned.

Educational Foundation Appointment

IBPA member Jerry Thorpe has been appointed by the ACBL Board of Directors to a three-year term on the ACBL Educational Foundation Board of Trustees. The term began on January 1, 2004. The most important objectives of the Foundation are to increase the number of bridge players, increase the pleasure of playing bridge, and to engage in educational activities.

Omar Redux

Omar Sharif is in the news again, this time promoting his new film, *Monsieur Ibrahim*, his first in ages. When asked, on AP Radio, why it had been so long, Sharif said, "I wanted to stop making lousy films, which I've been making for about 30 years, which is a long time for making lousy films."

Group Bridge Vacations

Borzi Viaggi di Alberto Borzi, Via Serradifalco, 2/c - 2/d 90145 Palermo, Sicily
tel 0039-091-225511 - fax 0039-091-6820269
have special group rates for 3- and 4-star hotels in Sicily for groups wishing to organize bridge tours and vacations. Call or fax for details.

Albania Applies to Join EBL

The newly-formed Bridge Federation of Albania has applied to join the European Bridge League. BFA has already been recognized by Albania's National Olympic Committee. The application will be considered at the next meeting of the EBL's Executive Committee.

Junior Month

February is designated as Junior Month in the ACBL. Clubs can hold special games with extra master-point awards to help fund Junior Bridge. See www.acbl.org for details.

Portuguese Grand Prix

Details of the 19th Estoril International Festival have been made available.

Teams: April 20-22; Pairs April 23-26

Location: Casino Estoril, Portugal

Chief TD: Rui Marques

Organisation: Portuguese Bridge Federation

Email: np93je@mail.telepac.pt

Phone: +351 - 213 884 844

Fax: +351 - 213 832 156

Prize Money: ~20,000 Euro

II Festival de Bridge Golf 2004

Maribel Corchero writes to inform us of the second tournament of Bridge-Golf in Almerimar, El Ejido, Almería, Spain, June 7-13. Information can be found at their website: <http://bridgegolf.com> or by emailing clubbridgegolf@netscape.net.

Maribel can be reached at C/ Santa Quiteria, 10-1º, 30001 Murcia, España. Tel. 34 968 21 86 13 or 34 687 40 75 85.

US Junior Bridge Championships

The United States Bridge Federation has named 2003 Bronze Medallists Joe Grue, John Hurd, John Kranyak, and Joel Wooldridge as USA1. To round out the team, USA1 will augment a pair from the 2004 Junior Swiss Pairs event July 17 and 18, during the New York City Summer North American Bridge Championships. Bob Rosen will be the NPC.

USA2 will be determined by the Swiss Pairs. The pairs placing first and second will become USA2 (provided they are not one of the pairs selected by USA1.) If either first or second place pair is augmented by USA1, then the pair placing third will be offered a place on USA2. The team will then select an NPC, and after consultation with the NPC, the team will augment another pair from the Swiss Pairs event.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Annamaria Torlontano informs us of the activities of the WBF Women's Committee...

A meeting of the WBF Women's Committee was held in Monte Carlo, which was attended by member representatives of the 8 WBF Zones.

The aims of the Committee are as follows:

1. To have more Women's Teams and Pairs in the WBF Championships.
2. To promote Women's bridge in general.
3. To seek to persuade the NBOs, in accordance with WBF policy, to appoint more women administrators and to encourage women to become tournament directors and teachers.

Women in bridge are becoming increasingly important – most people are aware the number of women players in the world is greater than the number of men, and they surely deserve to be represented fully in all aspects of the sport.

We are delighted to have new Committee members and representatives working with us, especially within the less developed Bridge Zones. They are enthusiastic and willing to co-operate, and I do hope that members of IBPA will help us all to achieve our aims by publicising women's bridge events. I am sure that I can count on you for your help!

Anna Maria Torlontano
Chairman, WBF Women's Committee

The Dutch Bridge Federation is once again at the forefront of bridge development...

Dear Sir/Madam ,

With pleasure, I can announce our recent extension of the project, "**Bridge for the visually impaired.**"

Through e-mail the visually impaired and even the blind can follow their lessons in their own homes! All it takes for the students is a computer and a reading program/facility on it, and a teacher of course.

A teacher can teach lots of students at the same time and mail the lessons on a weekly basis to all students. Students who are visually impaired use cards regular size but with

larger symbols; the blind use cards in Braille. Additional and more detailed information can be found on

www.bridge-vis-handicap.tk (in English).

With this system through e-mail all it takes is just one or two teachers in every country who are willing to do this!

May Cohen

Tony Gordon points out some errors in no. 467...

Hi John,

Happy New Year. I've spotted a few problems in the December Bulletin:

1. Page 9, 2nd bidding diagram. Cohen actually doubled 2C. (See bulletin 5 page 8.)
2. Page 10, 2nd column. Board 29. Penultimate paragraph. 2nd sentence. Meckstroth will not make 2 tricks in each suit because he will make only one heart trick and he will finish with only 7 tricks.
3. Page 10, 2nd column. Day 4. 1st line. Senior Bowl corresponded with Bermuda Bowl round 15, not 12. (See, e.g., bulletin 5 page 2).
4. Page 12, last bidding diagram. The final contract was 4H. The last line of bidding should not be two Passes as shown, but 4H followed by three Passes. (See bulletin 7 page 5.) Also, the name of the Chinese Taipei North player should be S.R. Wu, not H.L. Yang.

Best wishes, Tony Gordon

Michel Abécassis, Former Editor of Le Bridgeur, writes...

I would like to point out a small error in Tim Bourke's analysis of deal #255 in the IBPA Column Service (January 2004, p. 4): Tim tells about restricted choice and so... to decide whether to finesse the jack of diamonds. You should play for the drop, he says, after West showed the ten on the second round of the suit. But West would have split his honours with jack, ten, third on the first round of the suit to ensure down one, wouldn't he!? So finessing against East's jack has less to do with restricted choice than with unrestricted certainty!

IBPA WEBSITE NOTICE

To access a Bulletin on the IBPA website, enter the website address www.IBPA.com followed by a forward slash, then the Bulletin code, immediately followed by .pdf - this Bulletin will have code 469se so you will need to type:

www.IBPA.com/469se.pdf

You can download a copy of the Handbook from www.ibpa.com (click the link at the bottom of the page).

When you try to open it will ask for a password which is:

ihccaT

EXACTLY as it appears here.

World Bridge Calendar

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION	INFORMATION
2004			
Feb 9-15	9 th NEC Festival	Yokohama, Japan	www.jcbl.or.jp
Feb 12-21	38 th Tel-Aviv International Festival	Tel Aviv, Israel	manager@bridge.co.il
Feb 15-21	21 st Cairo International Festival	Cairo, Egypt	www.egybf.com
Feb. 20-23	Icelandair Open	Reykjavik, Iceland	bridge@bridge.is
Feb 21-28	Gold Coast Congress	Surfer's Paradise, Australia	www.abf.com.au
Feb 28-29	White House International Top Teams	Utrecht, Netherlands	jvcleeff@xs4all.nl
Mar 1-7	Mexican Nationals	Ixtapan de la Sal Edo, Mexico	www.acbl.org
Mar 13-20	10 th Malta Festival 2004	Sliema, Malta	mario@bridge.org.mt
Mar 18-28	ACBL Spring NABC	Reno, NV	www.acbl.org
Mar 19-27	39 th International Bridge Week	Crans-Montana, Switzerland	http://home.worldcom.ch/~fsb/indexe.html
Mar 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour	Reno, NV	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 3-4	OKBridge Junior Championships	Online	www.okbridge.com
Apr 6-11	109 th Canadian Nationals	Toronto, ON, Canada	www.toronto-bridge.com
Apr 9-10	Bridge Pro Tour	San Diego, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 20-26	19 th International Festival	Estoril, Portugal	np93je@mail.telepac.pt
Apr 23	Bridge Pro Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 23-24	Bridge Pro Tour	Miami, FL, USA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Apr 30	Bridge Pro Tour	Cincinnati, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
May 7-9	17 th OECS Championships	Anguilla	www.cacbf.com
May 5-9	Cavendish Invitational Pairs & Teams	Las Vegas, NV	Bill Rosenbaum 1-212-725-2135
May 14-27	55 th Antibes International Festival	Juan-les-Pins, France	www.bridgejuan.com
May 15-23	XVII Internacional de Costa Calida	Murcia, Spain	www.eurobridge.org
May 19-20	Bonn Nations Cup	Bonn, Germany	www.bridge-club-bonn.de
May 25-Jun 1	USBF Women's Championships	Raleigh, NC	www.usbf.org
May 27-28	Bridge Pro Tour	Cleveland, OH	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 2	Bridge Pro Tour	Sacramento, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 4-5	WBF Worldwide Contest	Clubs Everywhere	www.ecatsbridge.com
Jun 4-13	USBF Open Championships	Memphis, TN	www.usbf.org
Jun 5-13	54 th Campeonato Sudamericano	São Paulo, Brasil	www.bridgeargentino.org.ar
Jun 7-13	2 nd Festival de Bridge Golf	Almeria, Spain	http://bridgegolf.com
Jun 17-18	Bridge Pro Tour	Penticton, BC, Canada	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 19-Jul 3	47 th European Team Championships	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 20-24	Chairman's Cup	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 20-Jul 2	10 th Bridge Festival	Malmö, Sweden	www.bridgefestival.net
Jun 22-26	USBF Senior Championships	Las Vegas, NV	www.usbf.org
Jun 24	Bridge Pro Tour	Cherry Hill, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jun 29-Jul 11	19 th Biarritz International Festival	Biarritz, France	www.biarritz-bridge.com
Jul 1-2	Bridge Pro Tour	Chicago, IL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 8-18	ACBL Summer NABC	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 10-18	5 th Pacific Asia Bridge Congress	Taipei, Taiwan	www.ctcba.org.tw
Jul 13-14	1 st Youth Challenge Cup	New York, NY	www.acbl.org
Jul 14-16	1 st World Junior Individual	New York, NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 16-17	Bridge Pro Tour	New York, NY	www.bridgeprotour.com
Jul 17-24	World Junior Camp	Garden City, Long Is., NY	www.worldbridge.org
Jul 20-25	Women's Bridge Festival	Vienna, Austria	anna@ecats.co.uk
Aug 1-7	36 th Wachauer Bridgewoche	Loiben, Austria	www.noe-bridgesportverband.at
Aug 1-11	19 th European Youth Teams	Prague, Czech Republic	www.worldbridge.org
Aug 11-12	Bridge Pro Tour	Secaucus, NJ	www.bridgeprotour.com
Aug 24-30	Mind Sports Olympiad	Manchester, UK	www.msoworld.com
Aug 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour	Santa Clara, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Sep 2	Bridge Pro Tour	Pittsburgh, PA	www.bridgeprotour.com
Oct 8-10	3 rd European Champions Cup	Warsaw, Poland	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 16-17	Lederer Memorial	London, England	simon@simonx.plus.com
Oct 22	Bridge Pro Tour	Lake Geneva, WI	www.bridgeprotour.com
Oct 24-Nov 6	12 th World Team Olympiad	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 24-30	3 rd Senior International Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Oct 24-30	2 nd World University Teams Cup	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 1-6	3 rd World Transnational Mixed Teams	Istanbul, Turkey	www.worldbridge.org
Nov 5-7	Monte Carlo International Tournament	Monte Carlo, Monaco	jcaconseil@monaco377.com
Nov 7-13	4 th International Festival	Cuba	www.cacbf.com
Nov 14-21	10 th Red Sea International Festival	Eilat, Israel	birmand@inter.net.il
Nov 18-28	ACBL Fall NABC	Orlando, FL	www.acbl.org
Nov 26-27	Bridge Pro Tour	Orlando, FL	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 10	Bridge Pro Tour	Indianapolis, IN	www.bridgeprotour.com
Dec 16-18	Bridge Pro Tour	Palm Springs, CA	www.bridgeprotour.com